



**Middle Tennessee Chapter**  
*A 2018 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter*



**Military Officers Association of America**

Web: <https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

November 2019

Editor: Doug Minton

**MOAA Luncheon Meeting**

**19 November 2019; 11:30 AM**

**"Equine Therapy"**

**Mr. Curt Stacy**

First Presbyterian Equine Prog. Director

*Old Natchez Country Club,  
115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069*

Curt developed an interest in horses at an early age after visiting a relative's horse farm in West Virginia. Since then, he has studied riding with both English and Western trainers, has worked as a Wrangler overseeing herds of horses and has worked in several horse barns fulfilling various equine and barn duties.

In the fall of 2011, he was admitted into the Middle Tennessee State University Horse Science Program where he obtained his Master of Science in Horse Science, with a focus on Therapeutic Horseback Riding in 2014. During his residency at MTSU, Curt began volunteering at Saddle Up! – A local therapeutic horseback riding program for children with disabilities. He eventually worked his way up to lesson assistant and then to instructor in training. He was also involved in a pilot program that served Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder through therapeutic horseback riding at MTSU.

After participating in both programs and witnessing the positive impact that it had on the participants, he knew that he wanted to eventually develop his own therapeutic horseback riding program for adults with disabilities as well as Veterans, Service Members and First Responders. Curt obtained his Instructor Certification through the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Int'l.) where he went on to become a therapeutic riding instructor in 2016 at Saddle Up!.

In the summer of 2018, the Therapeutic Equine Assistance Method at First Presbyterian Church (T.E.A.M. - FPC), a therapeutic horseback riding program for Adults with Disabilities as well as Veterans, Service Members and First Responders was approved. Curt's first official participant started in February of 2019 and he is continuing to grow the program.

*Please join us for this program!*

**Officers**

**President**

CAPT (R) Dale Lewelling, USN

**1st Vice President**

LTC (R) Mike Patenaude, USA

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Lt.Col. (R) Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF

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**Surviving Spouse Liaison**

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

**Transition Services Coordinator**

Lt.Col. (R) Arlie Haddix, USAF

**Legislative Liaison**

LTC (R) Doug Gilbert, USA

**Chapter Contact Information**

Mailing Address:

**Middle TN Chapter, MOAA  
P. O. Box 50252  
Nashville, TN 37205-0252**

Website:

<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

Contact Phone: **(615) 415-6816**

Contact Email:

**info@mtcmoaa.org**

**Member Congratulations!**

Congratulations to CPT Dean Wegner, USA! His company Authentically American has recently been recognized in a Forbes Magazine feature article! If you were fortunate enough to make the March 2019 monthly meeting you heard Dean share his story from West Point to becoming the CEO of an American based manufacturer of apparel. Dean is a frequent participant at our monthly meetings, so if you missed the March meeting you can catch up with him at an upcoming meeting!

Forbes Magazine Feature Article:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jimvinoski/2019/10/31/less-than-3-of-the-apparel-americans-wear-is-made-in-the-us-but-this-company-is-changing-that/#2bf4d96366cd>

**President's Letter**

As we move into November and the associated holiday season, we have much to be thankful for. The Chapter is growing with new members, we received our 5th consecutive Five Star Award and we have had a year of great programs. As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to thank everyone for helping make it a great year in 2019.

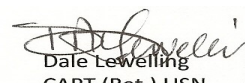
Our scholarship fund drive is nearing the end for this year. For those of you who have already contributed thank you. To date we have received over \$4500 dollars. In a few weeks we will be sending in the contributions to MOAA National, Belmont and Lipscomb. If you would like to add your contribution or make an additional donation it is not too late.

For the last couple of newsletters, I have discussed our goal of 90% membership at the MOAA national level. After some diligent scrubbing of our local membership we have identified 30 members who are not national members. I am extending a personal plea to those of you who are not a national member to please join. You can join on BASIC membership at no cost. All we need is for you complete a membership form online, or complete one that we can send to MOAA national to get you enrolled. We will have copies of the form available at our next meeting.

Open season for enrollment in the TRICARE and Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) begins on 11 November and goes to 9 December. If you were enrolled in either the Dental and/or Vision programs you may want to review the options for 2020 at [www.benefeds.com](http://www.benefeds.com), or you can also contact them at 877-888-3337 if you have questions. If you have questions or need to switch between TRICARE prime and select contact them at 800-444-5445.

In an effort to pass a military budget for 2020, Senator Jim Inhofe has introduced a "skinny NDAA" designed to keep the proposal moving to completion. The problem is that the skinny NDAA leaves out many important items like the elimination of 18,000 medical billets, the consolidations of the commissary and exchange system and the **end of the widows tax**. So, we need to continue to tell our elected representatives to resist the skinny NDAA and to support the fully funded NDAA that includes the end of the Widows Tax as well as the other issues MOAA has been working on this year. You can do that by contacting your elected officials at <http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?O&engagementId=503117>.

This month we will be welcoming Curt Stacy presenting on Equine Therapy. So, mark your calendar for the **19 November**. Look forward to seeing everyone.

  
Dale Lewelling  
CAPT (Ret.) USN  
President

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CHAPTER  
Military Officers Association of America  
P. O. Box 50252  
Nashville, TN 37205-0252



Happy Birthday to the U. S. Marine  
Corps! 244 years as of 10 Nov 2019

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

*Happy Veterans Day!*

19 November 2019: 11:30 AM—1:00 PM

(PLEASE NOTE change to November date to accommodate the Thanksgiving Holiday)

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

*"Equine Therapy"*

Mr. Curt Stacy

Equine Program Director, First Presbyterian Church

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,  
Franklin, TN 37069

19 November 2019; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

*"Middle TN Chapter Toy Drive"*

Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program conducted  
locally by the Marines of Kilo Company  
3rd Battalion 23rd Marine Regiment.

*Please bring New Unwrapped Toys  
to our November meeting!*

3 December 2019; 7 - 8:00 AM

*"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"*

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

14 December 2019; 11:00 AM

*"Wreaths Across America - Wreath Laying"*

Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery  
7931 McCrory Ln, Nashville, TN 37221

No Meeting - December 2019

*"Happy Holidays!"*

7 January 2020; 7 - 8:00 AM

*"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"*

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

28 January 2020; 11:30 AM—1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

*"Annual Report"*

CAPT Dale Lewelling, Chapter President

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,  
Franklin, TN 37069

TVET Legislative Update

On 28 September a strategic planning meeting was held for the 12 organizations that make up TVET. The constitution and by-laws were reviewed and amended regarding annual dues (the TN Council of Chapters belongs to this organization and pays annual dues based on total Chapter members reported by the 10 Chapters that belong to the TN Council.). Further, a Legislative Development Committee was formed with the purpose of working with the Legislature's Veteran Caucus, performing groundwork for legislation, and developing suggested veteran related legislation to TVET. Chapter member LTC (Ret.) Doug Gilbert volunteered to serve on this committee.

Proposed issues pending input from the Legislative Development Committee are as follows:

Restore Disabled Veteran Tag: In 2014 Disabled Veteran tag was changed from 2 to 1. Bill language to "restore" emphasizes TVET is not requesting anything new. Unfortunately, this bill will result in revenue loss to the state.

Mental Health Training for TDVS staff: TDVS would be required to provide training for all staff interacting with veterans. 2-3 hours of training would be required to recognize suicide risk in veterans. Unfortunately, this bill is also being regarded as a cost to the state, rather than a benefit to veterans.

Standardize Naming for TN Veteran Homes: TVET believes veteran groups involved in getting these homes funded deserve input in the naming of the home, and separate buildings (dining areas, chapels, etc.). This initiative will now require a restart with current TDVS Commissioner, Courtney Rogers, to promote understanding of why veterans want to be involved in the standardized process.

Women Veteran Recognition: TVET seeks a resolution to recognize Women Veterans role in our nation's defense. This was to have happened in the last session but was somehow lost in the legislative process.

TVET has begun collecting information for possible legislative action related to Veteran Farmers.

Mark your calendars: **February 5, 2020 is TN Veteran's Day on the Hill.** Please plan to participate!

Continued appreciation should be shown to OSDTN for providing non-handicap transportation for previous events; to the Ft. Campbell MOAA Chapter for using their liability insurance for Nissan Stadium parking; and to Mission BBQ which has funded meals for the last 3 years.

Current members of TVET: MOAA TN Council of Chapters, The Retired Enlisted Association, VFW, Woman Veterans of America, National Sojourners, Retired Officers Association, Buffalo Soldiers, AMVET, Vietnam Veterans Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Marine Corps League.

LTC (Ret) Doug Gilbert, Legislative Affairs Chair